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TOWN CLERK, MONSON, MA

**Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls
October Meeting Agenda**

October 14, 2021

6:00 PM - 8:00

PM

Online via Zoom: [Zoom Meeting Link](#)

<https://zoom.us/j/6895726626?pwd=aDdCTEpPSlkwa2pxd29VZDRqZStkQT>

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Facebook Livestream: [Link](#)

Please contact hccswg@gmail.com for the meeting password

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

II. Discussion with our featured guest, Donna Haghighat, Chief Executive Officer, Women's Fund of Western Mass

III. Public Speak Out (15 min.)

IV. Approval of minutes from Sept. 9, 2021

V. Chair Report

VI. Vice-Chair Report

VII. Old Business

- a. Update on Regional Convening
- b. Commission Planning Updates

VIII. New Business

- a. Strategic Planning and Priorities for the year
 - i. Calendar of events
- b. Next Meeting- November 11, 2021

VIII. Mass Commission Updates

- a. Collaboration with our Liaison for more events with elected leaders.

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About Our Featured Guest:

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Donna Haghighat came to the Women's Fund with over 12 years of experience developing programs, cultivating relationships, launching startups, fundraising, directing communications strategy, creating strategic plans and building advocacy programs. Under her leadership, the Women's Fund has

successfully launched The Young Women's Initiative for girls and young women of color in Springfield, focused on gender and racial equity and moved from direct programming to partnerships and community investing. This has allowed the Women's Fund to focus on advocacy, research and fundraising. Prior to joining the Women's Fund, Haghighat was Principal at Collabyrinth Collective, LLC. Previous roles have included Executive Director of the Aurora Women & Girl's Foundation, Chief Engagement and Advocacy Officer for YWCA Hartford Region, a strategic consultant, Chief Development Officer for Hartford Public Library, Interim Director and Grants/Program Manager of the Women's Education and Leadership Fund, and Co-President of AAUW CT.

Haghighat was awarded the Trinity College Alumni Medal of Excellence in 2019, was the grand prize winner of the 2012 University of Hartford's Barney School of Business International Business Plan Competition and was recognized as The Trinity Club of Hartford's Person of the Year in 1999 and the Trinity College National Alumni Association Award in 1996.

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Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women & Girls

Dawn Forbes DiStefano
Michelle Goncalves
Patricia Hallberg

Gabrielle Jackson
Tara Marshall
Jacqueline Velez

Jennifer Metsch
Lizzy Ortiz
Shanique Spalding

October 5, 2021

Dear Sir or Madam:

Let this serve as a notice pursuant to Open Meeting Law, M.G.L.c. 30A sections 18-25 of a meeting of the Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women & Girls (HCCSWG).

On April 25, 2017, the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women inaugurated nine commissioners to a newly formed regional commission created to study and report the status of women and girls in Hampden County. The Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women is "a state-established body charged with reviewing the status of women in Massachusetts and offering recommendations regarding policy that would improve access to opportunities and equality." The regional commissions have been created to target specific geographical regions to make sure that the needs of women across the state are met.

Our next meeting will be Thursday, October 14, 2021, from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM. In light of current public health recommendations for social distancing and state restrictions around public gatherings, and in observance of the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Required Provisions of the Open Meeting Law (M.G.L. c.30A, §20 dated March 12, 2020), this meeting will take place online at:

<https://zoom.us/j/6895726626?pwd=aDdCTEpPSlkwa2pxd29VZDRqZStkQT>

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Attendees are asked to contact hccswg@gmail.com in advance of the meeting to receive the meeting password.

This meeting is open to the public, and we encourage members of the community to attend. The first fifteen minutes of the meeting will be set aside for members of the public to present anything they wish the Commission to consider. Anyone who wishes to speak during this allotted time should email the HCCSWG Chairperson, Gabrielle Jackson, at HCCSWG@gmail.com with their intention so the HCCSWG may plan accordingly. Members of the public will only be recognized by the Commission to speak during the opening public presentation segment, and only if prior notice is provided.

Sincerely,

Tara Marshall
Secretary, HCCSWG